

Black Mountain College

dedicates its second

Music Institute

to the memory of

Thomas Whitney Surette

a great teacher of music

The Second Music Institute of Black Mountain College, Summer 1945, sponsored by the Music Department of the College, will be devoted to a study of polyphony and ensemble.

The music of the Nineteenth Century was increasingly dominated by the virtuoso and the mass orchestra. Seen as an expression of its time, the worship of the virtuoso on the concert stage was a part of the hero worship of this age. The development of the mass orchestra coincided with the process of industrialization and mass production. Both developments, that of the virtuoso and that of the mass orchestra, produced lasting masterworks. The amazing return of contemporary music and contemporary musical practice to polyphony and to the smaller ensembles of chamber music may be understood as a reflection of the awareness of the fundamental task that confronts our generation: the reconciliation between individual and society. Through bitter experiences the world has awakened to the realization that what we need is not heroes on the one hand and anonymous masses on the other, but that kind of society that permits the greatest possible development of each individual. Nothing can teach us more about the relation of the one to the many and the many to the one—even if in a symbolic fashion only—than can vocal polyphony and instrumental ensemble. Here we have the ideal community of free individuals, in which the whole makes possible the development of each part, while each part adapts itself to the higher order of the whole.

In drawing up the program and selecting the artists the Music Department of Black Mountain College has striven for closest possible co-ordination of theory and practice, study and performance. The courses will concern themselves with the works performed. The works to be performed have been selected so as to be representative of great polyphony